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Super Mileage Challenge coming to Indy

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – With growing concerns about high gas prices, Hoosier students are coming to the rescue.

High school students will submit 49 entries in the Indiana Super Mileage Challenge on April 24 at Indianapolis Raceway Park. Their challenge is build the winning one-man, fuel-efficient vehicle powered by a single cylinder four-stroke cycle engine. The vehicle obtaining the highest miles-per-gallon rating will win the challenge.

“These students research, design, and construct prototype vehicles, applying what they learn in topics related to safety, control, geometry, aerodynamics, composite materials, fabrication techniques, and much more,” said Mike Fitzgerald, technology education specialist with the Indiana Department of Education.

Other awards will be given for best integration of mathematics, science, and technology into the design and construction of the vehicle, best design, craftsmanship, sportsmanship, teamwork and closest to estimated performance. “This year the event aligns with Earth Day (April 22) which is especially important with the increased concern about our nation’s dependence on fossil fuels, the high cost of fuel, and the environmental concerns that we all share. The Super Mileage Challenge is a great example of how science, technology, math, and engineering can be integrated by students to improve their environment and their future,” Fitzgerald said.

Prior to the April 24 competition at Indianapolis Race Park, the vehicles will undergo technical inspections at the Aviation Technology Center at the Indianapolis International Airport on April 23. Sponsored by the Indiana Math, Science and Technology Education Alliance, the Super Mileage Challenge is also supported by partners that include Vincennes University, Indianapolis Raceway Park, Briggs & Stratton, Beast Enterprises, Indiana Department of Education, Universal Technical Institute, Gregg Steele Racing, and Technology Educators of Indiana.

Last year’s winning Stock Class Winner was Mater Dei High School (1,015.60 miles per gallon) and the Unlimited Winner was Winamac High School (900.26 miles per gallon).

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